

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A charging system comprising:

~~a plurality of client apparatuses~~ a first client apparatus;

a second client apparatus;

a server apparatus which provides at least one service to said ~~plurality of client apparatuses~~ first client apparatus and said second client apparatus via a network;

a charging apparatus connected to said network in order to a charge said ~~plurality of client apparatuses~~ first client apparatus and said second client apparatus with respect to the provision of said at least one service;

~~a plurality of first processing apparatuses~~ a first processing apparatus which ~~[[are]]~~ is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said ~~client apparatuses~~ first client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said ~~client apparatuses~~ first client apparatus via said first processing apparatuses; and

a second processing apparatus which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said second client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said second client apparatus via said second processing apparatuses; and

a second third processing apparatus which ~~[[has]]~~ comprises a cyclic unit which includes a circulation list specifying a circulation order and which circulates ~~among said plurality of first processing apparatuses~~ from said third processing apparatus to said first processing apparatus, from said first processing apparatus to said second processing apparatus, and from said second processing apparatus to said third processing apparatus via said network in accordance with said circulation order in order to collect the information for charging accumulated in ~~each of said first processing apparatuses.~~ said first processing apparatus and said second processing apparatus.

2. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of the at least one service, and wherein said cyclic unit is a first cyclic unit corresponding to a first one of the ~~at least one services~~, said ~~second~~ third processing apparatus has at least one second cyclic unit corresponding to a second one of the ~~at least one services~~, and said first and at least one second cyclic units each collect said information for charging in said ~~plurality of first processing apparatuses~~, apparatus for its corresponding service and said second processing apparatus for its corresponding service.

3. (currently amended): A system according to claim 2, wherein each of said cyclic units of the ~~second~~ third processing specifies a different time to start its circulation ~~among said plurality of first processing apparatuses~~ from said third processing apparatus to said first processing apparatus, from said first processing apparatus to said second processing apparatus, and from said second processing apparatus to said third processing apparatus.

4. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one service is a plurality of services, and said cyclic unit is a single cyclic unit that collects said information for charging accumulated in ~~said plurality of first processing apparatuses~~ said first processing apparatus and said second processing apparatus for every one of said plurality of services.

5. (currently amended): A system according to claim 4, wherein each of said first processing apparatus ~~[[es]]~~ accumulates said information for charging of said plurality of services.

6. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first processing apparatus controls the provision of said at least one service to one of ~~[[said]]~~ client apparatuses from said server apparatus with reference to an amount of

money which has been predetermined by said one of client apparatus for the purpose of providing said at least one service.

7. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first processing apparatus controls the provision of said at least one service to one of [[said]] client apparatuses from said server apparatus with reference to a time which has been predetermined by said one of client apparatus for the purpose of providing said at least one service.

8. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, further comprising a management terminal connected to the ~~second~~ third processing apparatus for inputting the circulation list and other information for controlling operation of the charging system.

9. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of~~ said first processing apparatuses is connected to at least one of [[said]] plurality of client apparatuses.

10. (previously presented): A system according to claim 9, wherein each first processing apparatus generates the information for charging with respect to the at least one client apparatus to which it is connected.

11.-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first processing apparatus [[es]] [[are]] is a first router apparatus [[es]] and said second processing apparatus is a second router apparatus and said third processing apparatus is a managing apparatus which has a function of managing the charging system.

14. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said second processing apparatus further has a storage unit, the circulation list further being stored in said storage unit.

15. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said circulation list further specifies a circulation period for circulation of the cyclic unit among the plurality of first processing apparatuses.

16. (canceled)